What is claimed is:

1. A method for production of purified Ross River Virus antigen comprising the steps of infecting a cell culture of cells with Ross River Virus, incubating said cell culture to propagate said virus, harvesting the virus produced and filtering the harvested virus.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the cells are VERO cells that have been grown in serum free medium.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein said filtering is performed on a filter having a pore size of between about 0.3 and about 1.5 μm.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said filtering is performed on a filter having a pore size of between about 0.1 and about 0.5 μm.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein said filtering step is performed with a combination of at least two filters, a first having a pore size of between about 0.3 and about 1.5 μm and a second filter having a pore size of between about 0.1 and about 0.5 μm.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein said filtering step is performed with a combination of two filters, the first having a pore size of between about 0.3 and about 1.5 μm and the second filter having a pore size of between about 0.1 and about 0.5μm.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the filtering reduces nucleic acid contaminants at least about 35 fold.

8. A method for the production of a purified Ross River Virus preparation comprising the steps of infecting a cell culture of cells with Ross River Virus;

incubating said cell culture to propagate said virus; harvesting the virus produced, filtering the harvested virus and treating the virus filtered with a nucleic acid degrading agent and purifying the virus.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein the cells are VERO cells that have been grown in a serum free medium.

10. The method according to claim 8, wherein said filtering is performed on a filter having a pore size of between about 0.3 and about 1.5 µm.

11. The method according to claim 8, wherein said filtering is performed on a filter having a pore size of between about 0.1 and about 0.5 µm.

12. The method according to claim 8, wherein said filtering step (d) is performed with a combination of at least two filters having a pore size of between about 0.3 and about 1.5 µm and a second filter having a pore size of between about 0.1 and about 0.5 µm.

13. The method according to claim 8, wherein said filtering step is performed with a combination of two filters, the first having a pore size of between about 0.1 and about 0.5 µm and the second filter having a pore size of between about 0.3 and about 1.5 µm.

14. The method according to claim 8, wherein the nucleic acid degrading agent is an enzyme having DNase and RNase activity.

15. The method according to claim 8, wherein said virus filtered is further treated with a virus inactivating agent.

16. The method according to claim 8, wherein said preparation is free of contaminating proteins from said cells or said cell culture and has less than about 10 pg cellular nucleic acid / µg virus antigen.

17. A method for production of a vaccine comprising purified, inactivated Ross River Virus comprising the steps of infecting a cell culture of a cells with Ross River Virus, incubating said cell culture to propagate said virus, harvesting the virus produced, filtering the harvested virus, treating the virus harvest with a nucleic acid degrading agent and a virus inactivating agent, purifying the virus; and formulating the purified virus in a vaccine composition.

18. A preparation comprising purified Ross River Virus antigen being free of contaminating protein from the cells or the cell culture and has less than 10 pg cellular nucleic acid/µg virus antigen.

19. The preparation according to claim 18, further comprising a physiologically acceptable carrier.

20. The preparation according to claim 18, further comprising an adjuvant.

21. A vaccine against Ross River Virus infection comprising a host protective amount of a purified Ross River Virus antigen, wherein said vaccine is substantially free of any contaminating protein from the cells or the cell culture and has an amount of cellular nucleic acid per vaccine dose of less than 10 pg / µg antigen.

22. The vaccine according to claim 21, wherein said host protective amount of Ross River Virus antigen is between about 0.1 and about 50 µg/dose.

23. The vaccine according to claim 21, further comprising an adjuvant.

24. A method of immunizing a mammal against Ross River Virus infection comprising the steps of providing a vaccine comprising a host protective amount of Ross River Virus antigen, wherein said vaccine is substantially free of any contaminating protein from the cells or the cell culture and has an amount of cellular DNA of less than about 10 pg / µg antigen, and administering said

vaccine to a mammal.

25. A method for the preparation of an immune globulin preparation specific against Ross River Virus comprising the steps of (i) immunizing a mammal with a vaccine according to claim 21 and (ii) isolating from the serum of the immunized mammal the immune globulin fraction comprising the RRV specific antibodies.